

**CITY OFFICES
AND COMMUNITY
CENTER CLOSED
FOR HOLIDAYS**

Dec. 31-Jan. 2
and Jan. 14-17

Takoma Park

NEWSLETTER

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful,
committed citizens can change the world. . ."
Margaret Mead (1901-1978)

**TRASH
HOLIDAYS**

Monday, Jan. 17
no yard waste
collection this week

Published by the City of Takoma Park

www.takomaparkmd.gov

JANUARY 2011

Community Guide, Nutrition, Art Considered for Grant Money

By VIRGINIA MYERS

City Council will consider 11 requests for funding local organizations and projects this month, as it chooses recipients of small community grants for fiscal year 2011. Among the requests most likely to be funded are a nutrition education program at Rolling Terrace Elementary School, an art project in Old Town and a community guide ("Takoma Park Survival Guide") produced by the Takoma Park Cooperative Nursery School.

The City Council created the community grants program in 2009, and for 2010 set aside \$10,000 to fund community projects, at no more than \$2,500 each. A Small Grants Committee of volunteer residents reviewed the 11 applicants, separately from city staff, and at a Nov. 22 City Council meeting each set of reviewers presented slightly different recommendations. The grant requests will be reviewed a final time, with a more unified presentation, on Jan. 3. (Councilmembers, staff and committee members agreed it

SMALL GRANTS continues on page 4

INSIDE:

House Concerts..... pg. 3

Calendar of Events..... pg. 11

2010 Retrospective..... pg. 12



Takoma Park Play Day

The folks who christened Takoma Park a Playful City are keeping cabin fever at bay this season with their first Mid Winter Play Day, scheduled for Feb. 12 from 2-4 p.m. at the Community Center. A twist on the summer event, which typically includes outdoor activities like sidewalk chalk drawing, tennis, dress-up and jumprope, the midwinter event will feature Contradiction Dance performing an Animal Dance, story-telling by Candice Wolf, and board games, among other activities.

The concept behind Play Day events is to honor the value of free play, and provide an alternative to scheduled free time. For more information, see takomaplays.org

Photo by Selena Malott

Speaking For, and About, the Trees

Takoma Park reconsiders its tree ordinance

By VIRGINIA MYERS

Which is better, solar panels or trees? The City Council will tackle this question and others related to the decades-old City tree ordinance in a continuing review designed to ensure the policy is still serving the City as originally intended.

Prompted by a controversy over a homeowner who chose to cut down trees to accommodate solar panels (and was required by City code to pay to plant 23 new trees in exchange), and by resident complaints about the species of street trees chosen for planting along Woodland Avenue (sweet gums were questioned), the review has already involved a presentation to the Council by the City arborist, and a detailed review of the ordinance by the volunteer Tree Commission. Another meeting on the policy is tentatively scheduled for the Jan. 10 City Council Work Session.

The Tree Ordinance states that in order to cut down a tree that is more than 24 inches in circumference at a height of four

feet from the ground, a homeowner must have a permit. If the tree is dead or hazardous, no replacements are required. However if the tree is still alive a process, defined in the City Code, is used to determine how many replacements will be required in an attempt to begin replacing the lost canopy. The permit will be granted only if the tree is found to be hazardous or dead.

Solar vs Trees, or Solar Plus Trees

Perhaps the thorniest question is the one framed as solar vs. trees. In a city where many residents are committed to many different ways of supporting sustainable energy and a healthy environment, this conflict has been troubling.

The volunteer Tree Commission favors trees over panels: while encouraging the use of sustainable energy sources wherever possible, the Commission wrote, "We oppose modifying the Tree Ordinance to make it easier to remove urban forest trees for 'environmentally friendly' purposes. Like solar panels, trees help mitigate anthropogenic global warming by reducing

CO2 emission; they do this by carbon sequestration and by reducing the need for heating and cooling of buildings through shade, evapotranspiration and protection from wind. However, mature canopy trees do so much more than solar panels: they reduce erosion and control storm water runoff through interception of rainwater, improve air quality by absorbing pollutants such as sulfur dioxide and intercepting smog producing particles, mitigate the urban heat island effect, provide habitat for wild life, increase residential property values, and enhance psychological well-being."

The Commission further suggests that the City could have "trees AND solar panels," with narrow panels, panels on a neighbors' roof, or "judicious branch trimming." The Task Force for Environmental Action goes a step further, suggesting the possibility of installing panels on sunny roofs and cooperatively sharing the energy produced there.

TREE ORDINANCE
continues on page 9

PRE-SORT STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TAKOMA PARK, MD
PERMIT NO. 4422

Mayor & Council
7500 Maple Ave.
Takoma Park, MD 20912

ECRWSS POSTAL CUSTOMER

CITY COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE CALENDAR*

Monday, January 3, 2011 – City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

Monday, January 10 – City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

Tuesday, January 11 – Façade Advisory Board meeting, 7 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

Tuesday, January 11 – Tree Commission meeting, 6:30 p.m. (CC Lilac Room)

Tuesday, January 11 – Takoma Junction Task Force meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Azalea Room)

Thursday, January 13 – Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting, 8:30 a.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

Monday, January 17 – City Offices Closed for the Martin Luther King Holiday

Tuesday, January 18 – City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

Wednesday, January 19 – Takoma Park Board of Elections meeting, 7 p.m. (CC Council Conference Room)

Monday, January 24 – City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

Tuesday, January 25 – Arts and Humanities Commission, 7:30 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

Wednesday, January 26 – Takoma Junction Task Force meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

Monday, January 31 – City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

*For the most up to date information, check www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/agenda/. Most meetings are held in the Takoma Park Community Center – Sam Abbott Citizens' Center, 7500 Maple Avenue (CC). Individuals interested in receiving a weekly Council agenda and calendar update by e-mail should contact the City Clerk at 301-891-7267 or clerk@takomagov.org.

The City of Takoma Park is committed to ensuring that individuals with disabilities are able to fully participate in public meetings. Anyone planning to attend a City of Takoma Park public meeting or public hearing, and who wishes to receive auxiliary aids, services or accommodations is invited to contact the Deputy City Manager at 301-891-7229 or SuzanneL@takomagov.org at least 48 hours in advance.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SERVE ON COUNCIL APPOINTED BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS

There are positions for Takoma Park residents available on many City boards, commissions, and committees. Please consider volunteering to serve. Additional information can be found at www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/committees or contact the City Clerk for more information (301-891-7267 or Clerk@takomagov.org).

Arts and Humanities Commission
(vacancies)

Takoma Park Board of Elections
(vacancy)

Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee
(vacancies)

Personnel Appeal Board
(vacancy)

Recreation Committee
(vacancies)

City Council Action*

*Only negative votes and abstentions are noted. For additional information, contact the City Clerk at clerk@takomagov.org.

November 15, 2010 – Special Session

Resolution 2010-67 was adopted, recognizing American Indian Heritage Month (November) and American Indian Heritage Day (November 26)

Resolution 2010-68 was adopted, adopting the Takoma Park Emergency Operations Plan and Authorizing the City Manager to Sign an Emergency Management Memorandum of Understanding with Montgomery County

November 22, 2010 – Regular Meeting

First Reading Ordinance 2010-51 was accepted, amending Takoma Park Code Ch. 2.12 – Administrative Regulations, Ch. 4.04 – Civil Service, and Ch. 4.08 – Collective Bargaining

First Reading Ordinance 2010-52 was accepted, approving a PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) agreement with Montgomery Housing Partnership for 7667 Maple Avenue (Parkview Towers)

Resolution 2010-69 was adopted, adopting a Flood Mitigation Plan

First Reading Resolution 2010-70 was accepted, proposing the annexation of Flower Avenue right-of-way between the southern right-of-way boundary of Piney Branch Road and the location at which the Takoma Park boundary proceeds east at a line south of Division Street (VOTING NAY: Seamens, Wright)



WARD 5 NIGHT TUESDAY, JANUARY 18

Residents of Ward 5 are invited to join the City Council on Tuesday, January 18 for a reception from 7-7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Lobby. A special Ward 5 public comment session will be held at the beginning of the City Council meeting, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Then next Ward Night will be Tuesday, February 22, for residents of Ward 4. Residents who have questions may contact their City Councilmember or Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk at 301-891-7267, jessiec@takomagov.org.



NOTICE TO COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS WHO PLAN TO REQUEST FUNDING FROM THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

Application Deadline: January 24, 2011

The City Council has adopted a formalized process for review of requests for funding in amounts over \$2,500.

The process is intended to ensure that requests are reviewed by the Council prior to consideration of the budget for the next fiscal year.

Funding decisions will not be made until the Council has discussed the budget and determined whether sufficient funds are available.

Resolution 2010-71 was adopted, providing for public hearing, publication, annexation plan, and public notice to certain State and County agencies in connection with the proposed annexation of Flower Avenue right-of-way adjoining the existing corporate area of the City of Takoma Park (VOTING NAY: Wright)

Resolution 2010-72 was adopted, authorizing the City Manager to sign a memorandum of understanding regarding Takoma Piney Branch Park

Single Reading Ordinance 2010-58 was adopted, authorizing the purchase of police in-car mobile video systems

The consent agenda was adopted. It consisted of:

Single Reading Ordinance 2010-53 authorizing the purchase of two replacement refuse trucks

Single Reading Ordinance 2010-54 authorizing the purchase of two police cruisers

Single Reading Ordinance 2010-55 authorizing the purchase of a Ford Fusion Hybrid for the Police Department

Single Reading Ordinance 2010-56 authorizing the purchase of a Chevrolet Impala for the Police Department

Single Reading Ordinance 2010-57 authorizing the purchase and installation of police vehicle equipment

November 28, 2010 – Special Session

Second Reading Ordinance 2010-49 was adopted, amending Takoma Park Code Ch. 14. 20 Morals and Conduct to Repeal Obsolete Sections

Second Reading Ordinance 2010-52 was adopted, approving a PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) agreement with Montgomery Housing Partnership for 7667 Maple Avenue (Parkview Towers)

Second Reading Ordinance 2010-51 was adopted, amending Takoma Park Code Ch. 2.12 – Administrative Regulations, Ch. 4.04 – Civil Service, and Ch. 4.08 – Collective Bargaining (VOTING NAY: Wright)

Resolution 2010-73 was adopted, providing for the City Council's winter recess

Resolution 2010-74 was adopted, commenting on proposed State legislation (VOTING NAY: Robinson)

SCHEDULE FOR FY 2012 REQUESTS FOR FUNDING:

Deadline for applications: January 24, 2011

Council review of applications and potential interviews of applicants: February 2011

Council selection of priorities for funding for FY 2012: February 2011

City Manager's proposed budget released: April 2011

Council discussion of budget and determination of availability of funds: April/May 2011

Adoption of FY 2012 Budget: May 2011
If requests for funds are granted, funds will be available after July 1, 2011

Complete information and the application materials are available at: www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/.

House Concerts Grow in Popularity

BY RICK HENRY

The rewards of home ownership are many – preparing home-cooked meals in the kitchen, gathering the family around the fireplace, playing with the kids in the basement, and, of course, hosting concerts by nationally recognized touring musicians for a live audience in the living room.

The latter activity, known straightforwardly as a “house concert,” is a growing national trend that is being embraced by some Takoma Park residents, including the two couples behind Tree House Concerts, Matt Littlejohn and his wife, Janet Rumble and Pete Marra and his wife, Anne Perrault.

Three to four times a year, Marra and Perrault host concerts under the Tree House banner for approximately 50 people in their Sycamore Avenue home. They clear space in the living room, set up folding chairs, sell tickets on their website and welcome an audience to share their home and enjoy an intimate live music experience.

“It’s like throwing a really good party—with some killer live music,” says Marra.

A recent Saturday night Tree House Concert bears out Marra’s comment. A crowd is mingling over drinks and snacks, many of them hanging out in the couple’s kitchen. The only indication that something extra is taking place is a lone stool set up beneath the picture window, a guitar leaning against it.

Suddenly, Littlejohn calls the crowd to attention. They stop mingling and find their way to rows of fold-up chairs. Littlejohn then introduces the night’s guest star, Mississippi guitarist and singer Cary Hudson.

For the next two-plus hours Hudson and the crowd become one, sharing a kind of intimacy and focus that would be impossible in a standard performance venue, no matter how small.

It is that intimacy between performer and artist that has kept Takoma Park resident Marika Partridge hosting house concerts for 16 years.

“I was at a show recently at the new auditorium in the Community Center, which is a great space,” Partridge said. “But when someone is a foot higher than you on a stage and the light is on them, there is a separation. At a house concert there is no separation, the performer and audience are truly connecting.”

Hudson, who said he has just started playing house concerts, agreed.

“I’ve had a great time playing house concerts,” he said. “The people are really focused on the music.”

A focus on music is what led Partridge and the couples behind Tree House to begin



Photo by Suzanne Davis

A growing number of house concerts in Takoma Park offer a more intimate musical experience than larger halls in the area. Here, Cary Hudson performs at a home on Sycamore Avenue.

hosting house concerts.

“We are very into music, but at this point (with family, jobs etc...) we decided we needed the music to come to us because we are too old to go to it,” joked Littlejohn.

“My husband and I have three teenagers, so it was always hard, and expensive, to go out and see music,” said Partridge, who used to work in the music department at National Public Radio. “By hosting shows we have been able to bring the music in and have our kids enjoy the concerts as well.”

Littlejohn and Rumble were inspired to start the Tree House concerts after attending a house concert by the band Marah in Philadelphia last year.

Littlejohn and Marra had been kicking around the idea in casual conversations, but after Littlejohn returned from Philadelphia, their conversations turned more serious. When they contacted the band, “They got right back to us,” said Marra. “They gave us some guidance into what we needed to do and what they required and we were off and running.”

The first Tree House concert, with Marah, was held in April of this year. Since then, they have hosted two more: the bluegrass, jam rock band Hoots and Hellmouth, and Hudson. Two more are already scheduled for next year: rock guitarist/singer/songwriter

Freedy Johnston on Feb. 19 and guitarist/singer Mark Erelli on March 26. given the reaction of both audience and artists, many more are on the horizon.

“We’ve already been contacted by five different artists interested in playing,” said Marra.

Tree House self-promotes its concerts via email and listservs and sells tickets through a website, tree-houseconcerts.com. Prices range between \$15-\$20 depending on the artists’ fees. All ticket revenue goes to the artist. The group does not keep any money for overhead or for their efforts.

“We are a money-losing operation,” Littlejohn proudly said about Tree House.

Partridge employs a different model for

her series. She does not publicize her events to the general public, preferring to keep the event limited to a smaller circle of invited friends.

“I have 40 people and I charge \$10 and all of that goes to the artists,” she said. “That’s the way it has been since I started 16 years ago.”

Partridge said she started hosting the concerts by accident.

“I was working at NPR and bands would come through town and stop by the studio. One band came by and said they had lost their gig and I came home and told my husband we should just do it our house. It went so well that I just started doing it on a regular basis,” she said.

Both Partridge and the Tree House contingent have parameters for their series.

“I have never featured a local musician,” said Partridge. “I want to bring in someone from out of town who people may not be familiar with or may not have the opportunity to see.”

“Our Tree House family is all on the same wavelength when it comes to music,” said Marra. “A lot of traditional house concerts focus more on folk music, but we want to showcase a different niche. We also want to reach out beyond the region.”

While a passion for music is obviously a key requirement for hosting a house concert, it also takes a certain kind of personality to open one’s house to a performer and audience. After all, while hosting a concert may be like throwing a really good party, as Marra says, throwing a really a good party requires a lot of effort and a lot of faith.

While many people might be hesitant opening up their house to 50 people, many of whom they don’t know, Perrault said she has no concerns.

“It doesn’t occur to me that something might get broken or stolen,” she said. “I’m more worried about everything coming together for the performer and the audience.”

Given the results so far, she has little to worry about.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON USE OF THE CR ZONES IN THE TAKOMA/LANGLEY SECTOR PLAN

Monday, January 10, 7:30 p.m.

The City Council will hold a public hearing on Use of the CR Zones in the Takoma/Langley Sector Plan on Monday, January 10, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium (7500 Maple Ave.). Comments will be heard at the hearing or may be submitted in writing to clerk@takomagov.org or sent by mail to City Clerk, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland 20912.

The following week, on January 18, the City Council will hold a work session to discuss the Sector Plan and the appropriateness of the zoning recommendations for smaller commercial properties.

The City Council is holding the public hearing and work session in order to prepare to testify at a January Montgomery County Council public hearing on the Sector Plan.

Since the draft Sector Plan was written, the Commercial Residential Zones (CR Zones) have been adopted by the County Council. The Sector Plan recommends that the CR Zones be applied to commercial properties in the Takoma/Langley Crossroads. The Montgomery County Planning Board is also considering additional new zones which will be CR “lite” versions for use in Kensington and Wheaton. Go online for more information on the Takoma/Langley Crossroads Sector Plan: www.thenewave.com, or call Ilona Blanchard at 301-891-7205.



THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

Editor: Virginia Myers
Production: Electronic Ink
www.takomaparkmd.gov
Vol. 50, No. 1

The Takoma Park Newsletter is published 12 times a year as the official publication of the City of Takoma Park, www.takomaparkmd.gov.

The Newsletter does not accept commercial, classified, or political advertisements. Unsolicited

materials by Takoma Park residents, including reports by community groups and articles that may contain opinion, or letters to the editor will be considered for publication if sent to tpnewseditor@takomagov.org or Newsletter, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912.

Name, address and telephone number must accompany all submitted material. Pursuant to City Council Resolution No. 1992-36 of June 8, 1992 that sets forth the editorial guidelines of the Newsletter, the Editor reserves the right to edit all sub-

mitted copy for length, clarity, style, spelling and grammar.

Published material containing opinions does not necessarily reflect the views of the Newsletter or the City of Takoma Park.

The City of Takoma Park is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry or national origin, sex, age, marital status or physical or mental disabilities that are unrelated in nature and extent to job performance.

The Newsletter is printed on recycled-content paper.



Rentals Cannot Be Denied for Tenant's Source of Income

BY MOSES A. WILDS, JR.
LANDLORD-TENANT
MEDIATION SPECIALIST

In Montgomery County, it is illegal to refuse to rent, sell, negotiate or otherwise transfer housing because of a person's source of income. That means, as long as a person can pay the rent, it doesn't matter where the money comes from, as long as it's legal: it can be from federal subsidies like grants, loans or low-income housing programs. The law stems from an amendment to Chapter 27 of the Montgomery County Code that took effect in 1991.

Any legal source of income paid directly or indirectly to a renter or buyer of housing is protected by the amendment and includes the following income sources:

- Any lawful profession or occupation;
- Any government or private assistance grant or loan program;
- Any gift, inheritance, pension, annuity, child support, alimony or other compensation or benefit;
- Any sale or pledge of any tangible assets.

A person's participation in a housing subsidy program such as Section 8 Rental Assistance (aka Housing Choice Voucher Program [HCVP]) would also be covered under the County Code's amendment. A housing provider may not refuse to rent to a prospective tenant with a HCVP certificate solely because the person is participating in the program.

The housing provider may, however, conduct the usual reference and credit checks and may reject a prospective tenant based

on a negative report if the prospective tenant will be responsible for paying any part of the rent. If the entire rent is to be paid by the subsidy, a negative credit check is not a valid reason to reject the prospective tenant since the tenant will not be responsible for paying the rent. Similarly, there is no reason for a housing provider to perform an income qualification check on a tenant with a HCVP certificate or other subsidized applicant who is not responsible for paying any portion of their rent.

Reference checks conducted by housing providers must be the same for both subsidized and unsubsidized rental applicants.

For questions regarding the County's Fair Housing Laws, contact the Montgomery County Office of Human Rights at 240-777-8450. The office is located at 110 North Washington Street, Suite 200, in Rockville.

Eight Tenants Reimbursed at Hillwood Manor

Verelett Allen, et al v.
Hillwood Manor Apts.
Joint Venture and
agent CSB Associates
Management Co.

Hillwood Manor
Apartments
(2010-10T through-
2010-18T)



COLTA's
CORNER

BY JEAN KERR
HOUSING SPECIALIST

On December 3, 2010, COLTA awarded eight tenants rent reimbursements ranging from \$1,525.56 to \$9,558.17. The tenants, who were represented by a pro-bono attorney, filed complaints alleging that their landlord was charging

monthly rents that were higher than the rent amounts allowed for their units under the City's rent stabilization law.

COLTA ruled that because Hillwood Manor Apts. Joint Venture had filed a petition for bankruptcy on May 27, 2010, the bankruptcy action precluded the prosecution of charges against Hillwood Manor Joint Venture, however not against CSB Associates Management Co. A previous COLTA decision and award to other complainants on the same matter has been appealed to the Circuit Court.

SMALL GRANTS

continued from page 1

would be better to coordinate review in the future, rather than have two separate sets of recommendations.)

Both the committee and city staff recommended funding workshops associated with the Takoma Park Jazz Festival (the committee recommended \$1,000, staff \$1,250), a "healthy eating program" with the Crossroads Farmers Market and Rolling Terrace Elementary School (\$1,250 from the committee, \$1,500 from staff), the Takoma Park Cooperative Nursery School's Takoma Park directory and "Survival Guide" (\$1,250 from the committee, \$1,750 from staff), and an Old Takoma Business Association series of sculptures made of used bicycle parts (\$2,000 from committee, \$2,500 from staff). In an attempt to spread the funding to as many different programs as possible, most projects were not funded at the full requests.

Projects recommended by the committee, but not the staff, included a sign for a rain garden and stormwater management system on Hancock Avenue (\$2,000 of the \$2,500 request), and a "Smart Snacks" program run by the hunger charity Manna (\$2,500 of the \$2,500 request, but staff says this is already being funded by CDBG funds so this recommendation is likely to change). The sign will be paid for by the stormwater management

Small Community Grant Proposals

Proposal	Request	Committee Recommendations	Staff Recommendations
Crossroads Market/Rolling Terrace Elementary nutrition education	\$2,500	\$1,250	\$1,500
EduCare Training Center	\$2,500	None	None
Jazz Festival workshops	\$2,450	\$1,000	\$1,250
Hancock rain garden and stormwater management system	\$2,500	\$2,500	none
Manna Smart Snacks food program	\$2,500	\$2,500	None
Montgomery Oaks garden	\$500	None	\$500
New Ave lecture series	\$2,000	None	None
Nurse for Mobile Medical unit at CASA	\$2,500	None	\$2,500
OTBA ReCYCLE public art	\$2,500	\$2,000	\$2,500
Reggio Children's Conference for staff at a Home Day Care School	\$2,500	None	None
Takoma Park community directory through Takoma Park Cooperative Nursery School	\$2,500	\$1,250	\$1,750

fund. Projects recommended by staff but not the committee included a gardening project at Montgomery Oaks (\$500 of \$500), and a weekly visit from a nurse to the mobile medical unit at CASA of Maryland (\$2,500 to go toward the nurse's salary).

Other projects that were not recommended by both committee and staff were a lecture series on redefining the city, focusing on "The New Ave" corridor along New Hamp-

shire Avenue (\$2,000); attendance to the Reggio Children's Conference for staff at a Home Day Care School (\$2,500), and \$2,500 for the EduCare Support Services Resource and Skills Training Center.

Reasons for not recommending funding for some projects included unclear proposals and unclear connections to service to the specific Takoma Park community.

Get a Tax Credit For Fixing Up Your Historic House

If you live in the Takoma Park Historic District and you've had exterior work done on your house, you may be eligible for a tax credit. Here's how the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Tax Credit works.

Essentially, if you have had more than \$1,000 worth of repair, painting, roofing or maintenance done on the outside of your house in any one year, you can get a tax credit (a check made out to you) for 10 percent of the cost of the work. So if you had your house painted for \$3,000, Montgomery County will send you a check for \$300. What's not to like?

To get it, the house must lie within the historic district, which includes large parts of the North Takoma, Old Takoma/PEN and WACO neighborhoods.

Note: The county *used to* send out newsletters informing residents of the tax credit program, but it no longer does that. So it's up to you to remember to apply before the next deadline, April 1, 2011.

Kevin Manarolla, a staffer at the Historic Preservation Office, says that you can apply for work done any time in the past five years. But you do need good documentation of the work, including before and after photos, and a licensed contractor's invoice marked paid or a cancelled check.

Note that remodeling work (like rebuilding a porch or a fence) *may* be eligible for the tax credit, if you got a Historic Area Work Permit before getting the remodeling done.

For more information, call 301-563-3400 or go to www.montgomeryplanning.org/historic.

?

DID YOU
KNOW?

The Computer Learning Center in the Community Center is staffed and open every weekday from 2 to 8 p.m. and on Saturdays, noon to 6 p.m. Computers available for resident use; wireless access throughout the building.

We Are Takoma

We are Takoma Series Examines Black Freedom Struggles through Sound

The We Are Takoma series offers a lecture this month, "Soul Vibrations: Black Freedom Struggles through Sound, 1939 and 1972," by Dr. Gayle Wald, Professor and Chair, Department of English, at the George Washington University, Jan. 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium (7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park).

The free event will consider two events, one famous, one nearly forgotten, in which African Americans used musical performances to advance a black freedom agenda. Contralto Marian Anderson's concert on the National Mall in 1939, staged in an early period in the modern Civil Rights struggle, used music to make a powerful argument for black Americans' inclusion in the national body politic. "Soul at the Center," a festival of black arts at Lincoln Center in 1972, drew on the legacy of Anderson's concert to unleash musical "vibrations" that would resonate with the cultural and political project of Black Power. Taken together, these events shed light on music as a means of community building, a way of imagining a better future through sound.

Gayle Wald is Professor and Chair of



Courtesy Photo

The We Are Takoma series will explore the impact of Marian Anderson's 1939 presentation on the National Mall in the upcoming lecture, "Soul Vibrations: Black Freedom Struggles through Sound, 1939 and 1972," at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 13 in the Community Center.

English at George Washington University, where she teaches courses on African American literature and popular culture. Her book "Shout, Sister, Shout! The Untold Story of Rock-and-Roll Trailblazer Sister Rosetta Tharpe" was a *New York Times* Book Review Editor's

Choice selection in March 2007.

This event is sponsored by the City of Takoma Park's Arts and Humanities Commission. For more information, call 301-891-7224 or go to ahc@takomagov.org or facebook.com/TakomaParkMD.

Love at Last Sight

Friday, February 4 - 8 p.m.
Saturday, February 5 - 8 p.m.
Sunday, February 6, 2 p.m.

Takoma Park Auditorium
7500 Maple Avenue

FREE EVENT
Donations Welcome



In January, 2008, ten teenagers performed for the first time an original musical called "Love at Last Sight" in the old City Council chambers. In the middle of the "stage" was the dais, from which the Council did the City's business. It was unmovable and the young thespians had approximately seven feet by 25 feet to do their singing, dancing and acting. Not exactly Arena Stage, but a makeshift cutout of New York City was taped to the dais and that was the set.

The musical, written by long time Takoma Park resident, John Guernsey, is a romantic comedy about a 19-year-old singer fleeing from a

troubled home life in Salt Lake City. She boards a bus for the Big Apple to pursue her dreams of a Broadway career. The year is 1949. Fourteen-year old Hannah Untereiner was chosen to play the singer and as they say in show biz, the rest is history. After eight frantic rehearsals the show was staged four times drawing about 250 enthusiastic people. Attending the last performance was Penny Martin, a producer for the Greenbelt Arts Center. She invited the group to stage the play in Greenbelt in the summer of 2008. A stripped down version was performed there and was well received. Fast forward to spring of 2010.

Guernsey received a small community grant from the City of Takoma Park to stage the musical in the newly renovated performing arts auditorium. He has written four new songs and four new scenes including a show-stopping tap dance. Hannah Untereiner will perform the lead for the third straight time at the ripe old age of 17. The male lead will be played by Robin Dreher, who expertly played the lead in the Blair high school production of Sweeney Todd.

Three pairs of siblings contribute their talents: Irene and Sally Ravitz, Jean and Lauren Jarvis Gibson, and Spencer and Vida Fye. Ana Anderson performs a slinky song called "Blues for Sale." One professional actor has joined the ranks: Aref Dajani has performed in theater, opera and film. And since there actually were adults living in New York City in 1949, three Takoma Park adults, Jane Hurst, Joanne Bowman and Betsy Taylor have been conscripted into the play for the sake of realism.

So treat yourself to a new musical. The songs are catchy, you're guaranteed to laugh, and you'll discover that "Love at Last Sight" is lovelier the third time around.

Recycling Cycling for Art

Three of the things for which Takoma Park is best known—art, bicycles and recycling—will be celebrated together at ReCYCLE, a public art exhibit planned by the Old Takoma Business Association.

The interactive exhibit involves interactive and kinetic sculptures

created by area artists using recycled bicycles and spare parts, near the sidewalks of Old Takoma.

Approximately 10 sculptures will be commissioned, created and strategically installed in Old Takoma to create a self-guided walking exhibit through the city center. The artists will be compensated for their work and the work will be judged by a

committee and voted on by the public. Prizes may be awarded to the winners. After six months, the sculptures will be de-installed and auctioned off to the public. The target installation date is spring 2011.

The project is being funded with donations. For more information, see www.mainstreettakoma.org.



Takoma Park Arts & Humanities News
celebrating the creative spirit of our community

January 2011

Unless noted, events are free and open to the public.

In the Galleries

Solo Exhibits by local artists Sam Mercer and Traci Jones.

Artists Reception Friday, January 7 - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Show runs through Jan. 31.

Gallery 3 and the Atrium Gallery, Takoma Park Community Center.

Free

Speakers Series

"Soul Vibrations": Black Freedom Struggles through Sound, 1939 and 1972"

Dr. Gayle Wald, Professor and Chair, Department of English, George Washington University
Thursday, January 13 - 7:30 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
Free

Poetry Reading

Readings by local poets Caroline Wilkins, Garrett Phelan and Matthew Salomon.

Thursday, January 20 - 7:30 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
Free

Music

The Parkington Sisters, a Sunspot Production

Sunday, January 9 - 7:30 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
Admission Fee: \$15 advance/\$18 at the door

Classically trained multi-instrumentalists, the Parkington Sisters' music embodies vibrant string arrangements combined with tight, interwoven five-part vocal harmonies, and gorgeous, blending voices, creating a sound that American Songwriter describes as channeling "Joni Mitchell, Shostakovich, and Thelonious Monk in such an understated manner as to make the uninitiated heart leap." David Potts-Dupre, Dan Robinson and Tom Kaufman will open.

A Celebration of the Life and Music of Buddy Holly, J.P. McDermott with Special Guests

To benefit Hungry for Music

Saturday, January 29 - 8 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
Admission Fee: \$15

This tribute to American singer-songwriter and a pioneer of rock and roll, Buddy Holly, features local western bop musician J.P. McDermott, a four-time WAMMIE Vocalist of the Year for 2004, 2005, 2007 and 2009. Hungry for Music supports music education and cultural enrichment, both in the United States and abroad, by acquiring and distributing quality musical instruments to needy children with willing instructors and a hunger to play. www.hungryformusic.org

For information on these and other activities sponsored by the Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission, please contact Sara Anne Daines at 301-891-7224, by email at SaraD@takomagov.org or check us out on Facebook <http://facebook.com/TakomaParkMD>

January

R e c r e a t i o n

Media Center Open House

You are invited!

Calling all Audio/Video Media Specialists, Technicians and Professionals! Join us on Monday, January 24, 2011 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

For our Media Center Open House for industry professionals. Attendees will receive a brief tour of the City's media friendly facilities, to include our new multi-media lab and recently renovated state of the art auditorium. A brainstorming session will focus on future media center uses and partnership opportunities.

The event will be located at:

7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland 20912
Light refreshments will be served

To RSVP, please contact Gregory Clark, Assistant Recreation Director, at 301-891-7227 or gregoryc@takomagov.org

The Recreation Department will also be holding other less technical open houses for the general public to introduce opportunities for adults and youth.

Fun Day

Ages 5 – 12

The Fun Day Program offers exciting field trips on scheduled whole day school closings and activities and performances on schedule half day closings. Participants will meet at the Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave. Full days pack a lunch. Trips, activities and performers are subject to change. Space is limited, sign up early.

Museum Tour, Washington D.C.

Monday, January 24

8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

TP residents \$35

Non-residents \$45

Teen Job Bank

Ages 13-18

Did you know it's never too early to turn an idea into a small business opportunity? The objective of the Teen Job Bank is to inspire teens to explore and expand their knowledge of employment by exercising professionalism, creativity and confidence. Teens who complete the two workshops will be referred to Takoma Park residents to perform small, paid odd-jobs. Participating in the Teen Job Bank will help develop life skills, independence and give kids a head start on building a good resume.

Teen Lounge, TP Community Center

Tues. and Wed., Jan. 11 and 12

4-6:30 p.m.

Free, but must pre-register 301-891-7283.

Workout Wednesdays

Ladies 12-17

Forget the repetitive workouts; we plan to sample a variety of fun exercise routines

from Zumba and Step to Hip Hop Dance. Our workout Wednesdays are perfect whether you want to maintain physical fitness, focus on weight loss or develop strength and endurance. Swimming and bowling will be included in the program. Bring three friends and be entered to win a chance to have a private Saturday night pizza party for 10 of your friends. Advance registration is required.

Dance Studio

Wed., 4:30-5:30pm

January 12, 19 and 26

Free, but must pre-register 301-891-7283.

Introduction to Music Production

Ages 12-18

Learn the basics of song composition through Garage Band in our new Multi-Media Lab. Our music stations include MIDI keyboards, and software to record, arrange, edit and mix your own beats and songs. Participants will compose their own songs which will contribute to a class project/CD at the end of the session. Your work may also be used in future portfolios for schools and institutes. We will also prepare you for intermediate and advanced classes in upcoming sessions following this course. Six weeks. Instructor Rita Moreno. Maximum seven, minimum four.

Multi Media Lab, TP Community Center

Tuesdays and Thursdays

3-4:30 p.m. Ages 12-14

4:45-6:15 p.m. Ages 16-18

Jan. 18-March 3

TP residents \$20

Non-residents \$30



Photo by Leicia Monfort

Eula Mae Seals and Ann White spread the holiday cheer at the senior holiday party.

Kilo Vibes D.J. Training

Ages 13-18

You wanted it. You got it. DJ training from one of the premier DJs in the Washington Metropolitan area, Kilo Vibes aka Simon Moore. This class is for teens who love music and parties, and want to consider a career as a DJ. Learn the art of being a DJ, with sessions that will explain terminology, show how to use equipment, how to design a set, make a playlist, incorporate song rotation, and use multiple methods to record sets. Participants will also become familiar with music theory, learning about sound, sound quality, basic mixing and scratching. If you love music and entertainment then being a part of Kilo's class is a step in the right direction. Six weeks. Instructor Simon Moore. Maximum seven, minimum four.

Multi Media Lab, TP Community Center

Thursdays, 6:30-8 p.m.

Jan. 20-Feb. 24

TP residents \$20

Non-residents \$30

ARTrageous Visual Art

Ages 5-7

Engage with the arts both actively and receptively, rather than through mastery of skills and techniques. Arts can be used to express, represent and integrate experiences and develop an understanding and appreciation for the arts. Students will be introduced to the color wheel and shapes used in art and our environment. Some projects include: ice painting which involves using ice as a paint brush, nature as art, line drawing, surface drawing, over-lap mixing and blending by tissue paper. Make connections among the arts, culture and history. Eight weeks. Instructor Kevin Hubbard. Maximum 12, minimum six.

Art Room, TP Community Center

Saturdays, 3:45-5 p.m.

Jan. 29-March 26

TP residents \$120

Non-residents \$140

RECREATION continues on page 7



Winter Basketball League

The Recreation Department's 2011 Winter Basketball League is close to capacity! This year, there are a record number of participants topping out just under 600 kids. Games are scheduled to begin on Saturday, Jan. 8 at various gyms in the greater Takoma Park area. Scheduling information can be viewed online at www.takomaparkmd.gov/recreation. Limited spaces are still available for the fifth and sixth grade girls' division and the seventh and eighth grade co-ed division. Call 301-891-7290 for more information.

RECREATION

continued from page 6

Cartooning and Manga

Ages 9-12
Using a sketch pad and your imagination create whimsical pictures like Manga and cartoons. Learn to draw the most famous mouse in the world. Create your own super heroes. Work on developing the whole story from beginning to end by visually depicting time and using a sequence of events. Draw animals and lots of cartoon characters. Explore art secrets and much more. Six weeks. Instructor Rain Young. Maximum 12, minimum six.

Join the Takoma Park Recreation Center Fitness Room!

Bring in the New Year right! It is time to get fit.
Come and join the Takoma Park Recreation Center fitness room (7315 New Hampshire Ave.). Get on track and watch those pounds melt away. Stair climbers, ellipticals, recumbent bikes, treadmills, dumb bells, leg curling and leg extension machines... all sorts of equipment to assist in becoming a new you.

Six month membership from January to June, just \$65!!!!

Come and join now. Don't let the New Year come in with the same old you.

Art Room, TP Community Center
Thursdays, 3:45-5 p.m.
Jan. 20-Feb. 24
TP residents \$100
Non-residents \$120

Paper Expedition

Ages 8-11
Has paper been playing second fiddle to your paint and pastels? Let's put the spotlight on paper as the feature medium. We'll have fun with weaving paper, paper sculpture, pop-ups, collage, and more. Along the way, we'll explore the elements of art such as color, line, shape and pattern. Eight weeks. Instructor Dmitri Lipzenko. Maximum 12, minimum six. A \$10 materials fee is due to the instructor on the first day of class.

Mondays, 4-5:30 p.m.
Jan. 31-March 28
TP residents \$98
Non-residents \$118
No class Feb. 21.

Creative Kids InterAct Story

Ages 5-7; 8-10
An innovative and dynamic, literature-based drama program introduces students to acting, increases their love of books, encourages literacy and builds vocabulary. Each week, a professional actor/teacher will lead the class in exploring and dramatizing specially selected children's stories based on these books using communication and teamwork that boosts self-esteem and its loads of fun! Six weeks. Maximum 15, minimum 10. Instruction provided by InterAct Story staff. Twelve weeks.

Auditorium, TP Community Center
Ages 5-7

Video Editing with Final Cut PRO

Beginning
Introduction to video editing basics using Apple's latest version of Final Cut Pro. Participants will learn the general interface, keyboard shortcuts and all pertinent terminology. Learn how to create and organize projects, log and capture video, add transitions and effects, basic text manipulation and timeline based storytelling. Instructor John Pitt. Minimum four, maximum seven. Participants MUST bring his/her own hard drive.

Multi Media Lab, TP Community Center
Wednesdays, 6-7:30 p.m.
Jan. 19-Feb. 23
TP residents \$40
Non-residents \$50

Intermediate
This course involves a brief review of some Final Cut Pro interface basics. The course will cover some of the more advanced concepts in Final Cut Pro such as keyframing, motion effects, color correction, filters, composite modes and shapes, markers, slow motion and advanced text manipulation. Six weeks.

Instructor John Pitt. Minimum four, maximum eight. Participants MUST bring his/her own hard drive.

Multi Media Lab, TP Community Center
Wednesdays, 7:45-9:15 p.m.
Jan. 19-Feb. 23
TP residents \$60
Non-residents \$70

Advanced
Learn how to take advantage of the more powerful tools within Final Cut Studio to produce broadcast quality videos. Using Motion, Soundtrack Pro and Compressor, participants will be able to create 3D graphics, compose soundtracks and export videos for any kind of platform such as Youtube, Facebook, and HDTV. Six weeks. Instructor John Pitt. Minimum four, maximum eight. Participants MUST bring his/her own hard drive.

Multi Media Lab, TP Community Center
Wednesdays, 6-7:30 p.m.
March 2-April 6
TP residents \$80
Non-residents \$100

Wednesdays 3:45-4:30 p.m.
Jan. 12-Feb. 16
TP residents \$110
Non-residents \$130

Lilac Room, TP Community Center

Ages 8-10
Wednesdays 4:45-5:30 p.m.
Jan. 12-Feb. 15
TP residents \$110
Non-residents \$130

Silver Foxes

For Active Adults Over 55

Table Tennis instruction with Amy Feng

Join Amy Feng, 1996 Olympian and a U.S. National Champion, with more than 10 years of coaching experience, to learn the basics of table tennis, multi-ball training and game strategy. No experience necessary. Eight weeks. Registration is required to participate in this class. Call 301-891-7280. Open to adults age 55 and older.

Mondays, noon-1 p.m.
Jan. 24-March 21
Game room, TP Community Center.
\$10 per person, per 8 week session.
No class on 2/21

Laughter Yoga with John Love

John Love, certified Laughter Yoga Leader, will introduce you to an easy and fun way to stay emotionally and physically fit. Using a series of seated and standing poses, Laughter Yoga combines laughter with yogic breathing exercises and gentle stretching to help you relax your mind and body. A great way to relieve stress. Eight weeks. Registration is

required to participate in this class. Call 301-891-7280. Open to adults age 55 and older.

Dance studio, TP Community Center.
Wednesdays 12:15-1:15 p.m.
Jan. 5-Feb. 23
No Cost

Chat Cafe

The ladies of "the View" don't have a monopoly on discussing the "hot topics" of the day. Join your friends in the Senior Room for coffee, tea and conversation. Drop-in. No registration is required. Open to adults age 55 and older.

Senior Room, TP Community Center.
Tuesday, Jan. 4 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

No cost

Square Dancing with Betsy Taylor

"Square dancing is part of American culture...it is a form of dancing that requires team work and cooperation...and also produces laughter and friendship as well as physical and mental health benefits from exercise," says instructor Betsy Taylor. Come learn the basics of square dancing. No experience necessary. Beginners and intermediate "plus" classes are available, choose the class that's right for you. Singles and couples welcome. Eight weeks. Open to

adults age 55 and older. Registration is required to participate in these classes. Call 301-891-7280.

Azalea Room, TP Community Center
Thursdays
Beginners Class, 11 a.m.-noon
"Plus" class, 10 a.m.-11 a.m.
Jan. 6-Feb. 24
\$16 per person, per 8 week session.

Gentle Yoga with Carol Mermey

Carol Mermey, RYT, will introduce you to the ways yoga can help you increase flexibility, strength and balance using a series of seated and standing poses. Learn breathing and relaxation techniques. Beginners and experienced students welcome, work at your own level. You must have a yoga mat, and bring it to class. Open to adults age 55 and older. Eight classes. Registration is required to participate in this class. Call 301-891-7280.
Alternate Fridays, Jan. 21-April 29, 2011.
Dance Studio, TP Community Center.
No cost

Trip to the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C.

The Natural History Museum celebrates its 100th birthday with a special exhibition featuring archival and modern photographs highlighting many facets of this building—its

people, collections, exhibitions and outreach throughout the years. Spend the day exploring this and other exhibits. Bring spending money to buy lunch at the museum's Atrium Cafe, or the Fossil cafe. Don't forget about the dessert at the Ice Cream and Espresso Bar. Registration is required to participate in this activity. Call 301-891-7280. Deadline to register: 1/7/11 or earlier. Open to adults age 55 and older.

Wednesday, Jan. 12
9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Meet at TP Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. Bus pick-up at Franklin Apartments, Maplevue Apartments, and Victory Tower only.
No cost

Trip to Old Country Buffet, Gaithersburg, Maryland

Play Bingo and enjoy a good American food buffet. Registration is required to participate in this activity. Call 301-891-7280. Registration deadline: 1/14 or earlier. Open to adults age 55 and older.
Wednesday, Jan. 19
9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Meet at TP Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. Bus pick-up at Franklin Apartments, Maplevue Apartments, and Victory Tower only.
\$7.95 plus tax for your meal.

TAKOMA PARK LIBRARY CALENDAR

Community Circle Time

Every Tuesday

Two times: 10 a.m. OR 11 a.m.

Spanish Circle Time

Every Thursday

10:30 a.m. with Señora Geiza

Thanks to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring this program.

Bedtime Stories

Monday, Jan. 3, 7 p.m.

Come in p.j.s, bring your teddy or other stuffed favorites as we read some stories and sing some songs in this half-hour program.

Perfect for babies, toddlers, pre-schoolers and their grown-ups.

Friends Reading Group

Thursday, Jan. 6, 7:30 p.m.

We're discussing "The First Man," Albert Camus' unfinished work at the time of his death.

Hydrangea Room; all welcome

French Circle Time

Saturday, Jan., 14

10:30 a.m. with Madame Marie
Registration strongly encouraged
Thanks to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring this program.

Friends of the Library Board Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 18, 7:45 p.m.

Junior Banned Books Club

Monday, Jan. 24, 6:30 p.m.

For kids in third, fourth and fifth grade.

Our book is "Abel's Island" by William Steig. A limited number of copies are available for check-out at the main desk, courtesy of the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

Registration is required.

Banned Books Club

Monday, Jan. 24, 7:30 p.m.

For kids in middle school and high school.

Our book is "The Great Gatsby" by F. Scott Fitzgerald. A limited number of copies are available for check-out at the main desk, courtesy of the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

Registration required.

French Circle Time

Saturday, Jan. 28

10:30 a.m. with Madame Marie

Thanks to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring this program

Caldecott Club

Monday, Jan. 31 – 7 p.m.

Come read and discuss this year's Caldecott Medal winners.

Best for ages 5 up; adults also welcome.

Takoma Park Librarian Shares her Service on Sibert Medal Committee

BY KAREN MACPHERSON

The Caldecott Medal and the Newbery Medal often are called the "Academy Awards of the children's book world" – and with good reason. When the winners of the awards are announced each January at the American Library Association's Midwinter conference, the books immediately become best-sellers, bringing fame and fortune to their creators.

The Caldecott Medal recognizes the best-illustrated children's book of the previous year, while the Newbery Medal highlights the best-written children's book. The winners are chosen by a committee of librarians and other children's experts who are elected by their peers. The committees change each year, and it's an honor to be elected to serve on one.

But the Caldecott and Newbery medals are only two of a number of children's literature awards given each year by members of the American Library Association (ALA). There are numerous other awards including the Robert F. Sibert Medal, created in 2001 to spotlight the year's best children's "informational," or non-fiction book. The award is in honor of Robert Sibert, the long-time president of Bound to Stay Bound Books, Inc. of Jacksonville,

Fla., and is administered by the ALA.

Last spring, I was elected to serve on the 2012 Sibert Medal Committee, along with eight other members. Our term begins this month at the ALA's Midwinter meeting and concludes the following January, when we announce the book we've chosen as the winner of the 2012 Sibert Medal, as well as any honor books.

I'm hoping to involve our Library community in this year-long process. I'll be regularly posting lists of new non-fiction books for kids on our Children's Room blog and asking patrons to check them out, read them and give me feedback.

As for those of us on the "real" committee, we've been told by Sibert committee veterans that the workload is heavy. Throughout this year, we'll be sifting through hundreds of non-fiction books published for kids in 2011. Some books, especially those "report books" written to help kids gather facts about a subject, will be easy to set aside as they aren't the type of books generally honored by the Sibert Medal.

But there are likely to be dozens of books that are serious candidates for the Sibert. Judging by past Sibert Medal winners, these serious contenders are likely to be "narrative non-fiction" books that read like

novels but actually are well-sourced, meticulously-researched information books.

We'll have to carefully read those books – generally more than once. One of our main jobs will be to ensure the accuracy of any potential winner. This may involve reading other books about the same subject, or even interviewing experts on the topic. Yes, it's a lot of work, but it also is a fascinating process.

In identifying a potential Sibert Medal winner, committee members must consider specific criteria, including the "excellent, engaging and distinctive use" of both language and visual presentation. Committee members also must consider whether a book has "appropriate organization and documentation," and "clear, accurate and stimulating presentation of facts, concepts and ideas," as well as "supportive features" like an index, table of contents, etc.

Finally, committee members must determine, of course, whether a particular book is "respectful and of interest to children." Just like the criteria for the Newbery and Caldecott medals, the Sibert criteria define children as those from birth through age 14.

MEDAL COMMITTEE
continues on page 9

Robert F. Sibert Medal and Honor Books , 2002-present

2010 MEDAL WINNER:

Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream, written by Tanya Lee Stone

Honor Books:

The Day-Glo Brothers: The True Story of Bob and Joe Switzer's Bright Ideas and Brand-New Colors, written by Chris Barton, illustrated by Tony Persiani
Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11 written and illustrated by Brian Floca
Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice, written by Phillip Hoose

2009 MEDAL WINNER:

We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball by Kadir Nelson

Honor Books:

Bodies from the Ice: Melting Glaciers and the Recovery of the Past written by James M. Deem
What to Do About Alice?: How Alice Roosevelt Broke the Rules, Charmed the World, and Drove Her Father Teddy Crazy! written by Barbara Kerley and illustrated by Edwin Fotheringham

2008 MEDAL WINNER:

The Wall: Growing Up behind the Iron Curtain by Peter Sís

Honor Books:

Lightship written and illustrated by Brian Floca
Nic Bishop Spiders written and photographed by Nic Bishop

HONOR BOOKS
continues on page 9



LIBRARY Briefs

Readers Come Together for Culmination of Caldecott Awards

On Monday, Jan. 31, we will meet to discuss the winner of the 2011 Caldecott Medal, which will be announced in early January at the American Library Association's Midwinter meeting. We will read the winning book together, using the ELMO overhead projector, and talk about why or why not we think it is a good choice for the Caldecott Medal. We'll also read any Caldecott Honor books selected.

Even if you didn't make it to our Caldecott Club meetings in November and December, you're welcome to come and enjoy a discussion about the 2011 winners of the most prestigious award given for children's book illustration. This program is best for kids ages 5 and up, and adults who enjoy picture books also are most welcome.

We ask people to please register for the program; to register, go to www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html.

Morrissey Tournament Scores Again for Library Friends

Steve DuBos and Stan Barouh were both close friends of library enthusiast Mike Morrissey, and through the annual golf tournaments organized in his memory, they have become benefactors of the Takoma Park Library.

On December 13, DuBos and Barouh joined Library Friends and staff in a celebratory luncheon in the Children's Room, and presented the Friends with a check for

\$5,674, proceeds of the ninth annual charity golf tournament in Morrissey's name.

Since 2002, the tournaments have raised \$41,494 for the Friends—all of which is used to fund Library services and programs, including the area's only French Circle Time, and this past summer's only library-sponsored summer reading program for children.

DuBos told the story of how the day before his wedding to wife Jennifer, he and Ken Gill went off to play golf and, over a couple of beers, conceived the idea of having a tournament in Morrissey's memory. Since then, the effort has involved Morrissey's friends and relatives all over the country, an after-party and silent auction at Rumors Restaurant, and myriad would-be golfers, including Library staff. In 2009, the Takoma Park City Council adopted a resolution naming the Library Children's room in honor of Mike Morrissey.

LIBRARY BRIEFS
continues on page 9

MEDAL COMMITTEE

continued from page 8

Our committee will hold a “practice” discussion session at the ALA’s annual meeting in June. By then, committee members will each have suggested several books for discussion and that list will form our practice discussion list.

Then, in the fall, we’ll have three rounds of nominations. Each committee member will first be asked to nominate a total

of seven books. These nominated books are supposed to be the books committee members consider the strongest contenders for the 2012 Sibert Medal.

In January 2012, we’ll gather at the ALA’s Midwinter conference to have our final discussion and choose the winner, plus any honor books. All of our deliberations are secret and remain so forever. Once we make our choice, the 2012 Sibert Medal winner will be announced along with the winners of the Newbery, Caldecott and other awards – always a thrilling moment!

LIBRARY BRIEFS

continued from page 8

DuBos is determined that the annual event will celebrate its tenth year, and is already planning on a Spring tournament in 2011.

Friends to Tackle Dickens and John Fowles

The Friends of the Library “Big Book Club” will meet to discuss Charles Dickens’ “Bleak House” through the winter and early spring.

“Bleak House” is among the most admired and widely read of Dickens’ novels. In his introduction to the novel, Sir Osbert Sitwell writes: “‘Bleak House’ has a major theme – or rather, two connected major themes – running through it; the iniquities committed by the obsolete legal machine, and the willful and wicked blindness shown by our Mote-Beam school of Philanthropy, the members of which rescue, clothe and feed savages in islands lost among the Antipodes, but allow their own children to grow up totally neglected and those of their

neighbors to die of starvation. Round these themes, carried through to the end of the book, modulated, disguised, transformed, but always reappearing, swarms a whole population of city weeds, hypocrites and philanthropists, villains and heroes; a great crowd of individuals that could only have been created by this author.”

Discussion will begin March 31, with an introductory talk by University of Maryland professor and Dickens scholar William Carter. Contact the Library for other meeting dates.

During the summer and fall, Dr. Kelly Cresap will lead an in-depth series of discussions on “Daniel Martin” (1977) by John Fowles. The novel, Cresap says, “concerns creativity and passion regained in middle age. ... Spanning three decades and spanning four continents, Fowles’ novel records a creative man’s efforts to discover what had gone wrong, not only with Daniel Martin, but his generation, age, century.”

Friends Reading Group discussions are open to all. For additional information, contact the Library or www.ftpml.org.

HONOR BOOKS

continued from page 8

2007 MEDAL WINNER:

Team Moon: How 400,000 People Landed Apollo 11 on the Moon by Catherine Thimmesh

Honor Books:

Freedom Riders: John Lewis and Jim Zwerg on the Front Lines of the Civil Rights Movement by Ann Bausum
Quest for the Tree Kangaroo: An Expedition to the Cloud Forest of New Guinea written by Sy Montgomery, photographs by Nic Bishop
To Dance: A Ballerina’s Graphic Novel written by Siena Cherson Siegel, artwork by Mark Siegel

2006 MEDAL WINNER:

Secrets of a Civil War Submarine: Solving the Mysteries of the H.L. Hunley by Sally M. Walker

Honor Book:

Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler’s Shadow by Susan Campbell Bartoletti

2005 MEDAL WINNER:

The Voice that Challenged a Nation: Marian Anderson and the Struggle for Equal Rights by Russell Freedman

Honor Books:

Walt Whitman: Words for America written by Barbara Kerley, illustrated by Brian Selznick.
The Tarantula Scientist written by Sy Montgomery, photographs by Nic Bishop

Sequoyah: The Cherokee Man Who Gave His People Writing written by James Rumford, translated into Cherokee by Anna Sixkiller Huckaby

2004 MEDAL WINNER:

An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793 by Jim Murphy

Honor Book:

I Face the Wind written by Vicki Cobb, illustrated by Julia Gorton

2003 MEDAL WINNER:

The Life and Death of Adolf Hitler by James Cross Giblin

Honor Books:

Six Days in October: The Stock Market Crash of 1929 by Karen Blumenthal
Hole in My Life by Jack Gantos
Action Jackson written by Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan, illustrated by Robert Andrew Parker
When Marian Sang written by Pam Munoz Ryan, illustrated by Brian Selznick

2002 MEDAL WINNER:

Black Potatoes: The Story of the Great Irish Famine, 1845-1850 by Susan Campbell Bartoletti

Honor Books:

Surviving Hitler: A Boy in the Nazi Death Camps by Andrea Warren
Vincent van Gogh by Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan
Brooklyn Bridge by Lynn Curlee

TREE ORDINANCE

continued from page 1

City Arborist Todd Bolton also favors trees over panels. “Generally, the consensus is the combined ecosystem services provided by trees outweigh the benefits of solar panels,” he says. “I would also say that the monetary benefits of the community are better served by a street tree or a pretty tree in a front yard than by supposedly increased property values for a solar panel.”

Among those on the other side of the argument are a group of ten residents who signed a letter favoring panels over trees, urging City Council to “remove a disincentive to solar panel installation by allowing tree removal (possibly without replacement) for such purposes.”

The City Council will discuss this issue further in January.

Arbitrary Arborist?

Another issue Council discussed is whether the decisions made by Bolton, about whether or not trees can come down, are subjective, or based in fact. Bolton assured Council that his replacement decisions are based on mathematical formulas involving the amount of tree canopy they provide, and the amount of time it will take for new trees to replace that canopy cover.

“It’s not arbitrary,” he told them at the November meeting. “It is numerical.” Factors like the diameter and condition of the trunk, the growth rate, soundness of tree structure, presence of insects and/or disease, condition of the crown, and the estimated remaining life determine whether or not a tree should be cut in the first place. If it is determined that the tree has some life left in it, the number of trees it will take to replace it is also determined

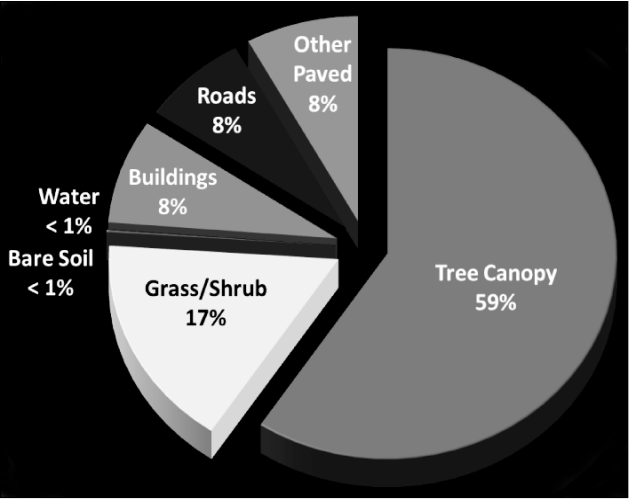


Illustration courtesy City of Takoma Park

The recent tree report, from the University of Vermont Spatial Analysis Lab, shows a tree canopy covering 59 percent of Takoma Park.

by formula, which Bolton described (see <http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/publicworks/arborist/treeprotection.html> for full tree ordinance rules).

Regarding the species chosen for various areas of the City, Bolton explained to Council that he tries to vary species, so that if one kind of tree gets a disease particular to that species, other trees in the City will survive, and keep the City from being completely denuded of tree growth. The sweet gums that some find objectionable had not been planted elsewhere in the City, so Bolton chose those for planting. Those who object to sweet gums fear their root system will crack sidewalks, and find the prickly seed pods are a nuisance.

Some have suggested that residents be allowed to vote

on what species they’d like to have planted along their streets. Council will discuss this as a possibility.

Individual council members brought up other issues, including the role of the City arborist, and whether Code Enforcement could take over some of his duties; requiring a tree ordinance disclosure statement for realtors to provide new homeowners; a reexamination of the formula that determines how many trees would replace trees to be removed; and pre-planting trees for credit to store for a time when a homeowner wants to take down a tree.

Picture Perfect

A new, graphic report showing Takoma Park’s tree canopy in color-coded detail will help facilitate the continuing tree ordinance discussion. It shows that Takoma Park is far ahead of other jurisdictions that have had similar reports, with 59 percent of the city, or 784 acres, covered in tree canopy. City Arborist Todd Bolton says that Takoma Park is lucky it has such tree cover – but its luck may quickly run out. “Those trees are at the end of their life cycle and there is not a teenage generation waiting to fill the holes,” he says.

The report also shows areas where more tree plantings would be most effective

Bolton maintains that the tree ordinance does not need to change. “I think that the law is working in accordance to what it is intended to do,” he told Council. “It makes people make choices: economic, philosophical, landscape, conscious decisions about whether we’re maintaining the canopy or whether we’re not going to have it.”

“If you want to take a tree down that doesn’t need to come down, the City Code says it’s going to cost you extra money,” he added. “That’s what it comes down to.”

Keeping Winter Safe

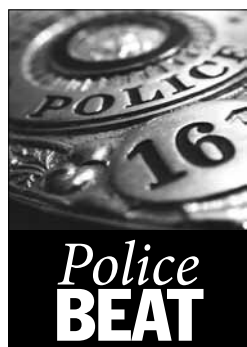
Many injuries occur each winter as people try to keep their homes warm and get around in cold, stormy weather. Here are some tips to keep you safe:

Prepare your Home and Family

- Prepare for possible isolation in your home by having sufficient heating fuel.
- Clear rain gutters, repair roof leaks and cut away tree branches that could fall on a house or other structure during a storm.
- Keep the following available for storms: rock salt to melt ice on walkways, sand to improve traction, snow shovels and other snow removal equipment.
- Learn how to shut off water valves in case a pipe bursts.
- Hire a contractor to check the structural ability of the roof to sustain unusually heavy weight from the accumulation of snow.

Portable Space Heaters

- Make sure your heater has been tested for safety.
- Place space heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn – including furniture, people, pets and curtains.
- Supervise children and pets at all times when a portable space heater is in use.
- Never use space heaters to dry clothing



or blankets.

Fireplaces and Wood Stoves

- Burn only seasonal hardwood like oak, ash or maple. Do not burn trash, cardboard boxes or Christmas trees.
- Have a professional chimney sweep inspect chimneys every year.
- Open flues before fireplaces are used.
- Use sturdy screens or glass doors to keep embers inside fireplaces.
- Install at least one smoke alarm on every level of your home and inside or near sleeping areas.

Prepare Your Car

Check or have a mechanic check the following items:

- Antifreeze levels
- Battery and ignition system – should be in top condition and battery terminals should be clean.
- Brakes – check for wear and fluid levels.
- Exhaust system – check for leaks and crimped pipes and repair or replace as necessary. Carbon monoxide is deadly and usually gives no warning.
- Fuel and air filters – replace and keep water out of the system by using additives and maintaining a full tank of gas.
- Heater and defroster – ensure they work properly.
- Lights and flashing hazard lights – check for serviceability.
- Oil – check for level and weight. Heavier oils congeal more at low temperatures and do not lubricate as well.

A Warm Car Can Mean Stolen Car

A MESSAGE FROM POLICE CHIEF RICUCCI

The cold weather is upon us. Although many of us would like to start our cars and have them warm by the time we slip into them for the drive to work, school, etc., it is not a good safety habit.

You cannot leave your vehicle running. You must lock it up. Leaving your car running leaves the perfect opportunity for it to be stolen. Some criminals may hang around your neighborhood and watch you go out, start the car and go back into your residence. Easily taken.

Be especially careful at day-care centers and schools. Parents who are rushing to get their children inside may leave the car running to make it easier when they come back out—but there's nothing easy about having your car stolen. To add insult to injury, there is a \$70 fine imposed by the Takoma Park Police Department if they ticket for leaving your car running, unattended.

A criminal will select his target because it offers him the best opportunity to carry out his crime undetected and with the fewest number of obstacles in his way. The more time he has to spend stealing a car, the greater the chance of detection. That's why he'll take the easy route - it's faster. Don't help him out!

Please, maintain good safety habits as we approach the winter season.

- Thermostat – ensure it works properly.
- Windshield wiper equipment – repair any problems and maintain proper washer fluid level.
- Install good winter tires – Make sure the tires have adequate tread.
- Maintain at least a half tank of gas during the winter season.
- snack food
- matches
- extra hats, socks and mittens
- first aid kit with pocket knife
- necessary medications
- blanket(s)
- tow chain or rope
- road salt and sand
- booster cables
- emergency flares
- fluorescent distress flag

Place a winter emergency kit in each car that includes:

- a shovel
- windshield scraper and small broom
- flashlight
- battery powered radio
- extra batteries
- water

Some safety tips taken from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Manual and Home Safety Council Safety Guide.

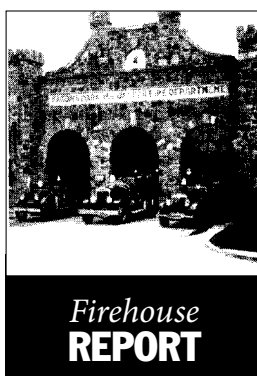
Emilio Osorio-Osorio Sentenced for Attempted Murder

On July 3, 2009, at approximately 9:45 a.m., Takoma Park Police responded to the 900 block of University Blvd., Tijuana Café, for reports of an assault that occurred within the establishment. The victim was in Tijuana Café when he was assaulted by Emilio Osorio-Osorio, 24, of Silver Spring, Maryland. Osorio-Osorio used a knife and cut the victim in several places about his body. After the assault, Osorio-Osorio fled the establishment and was later apprehended.

The victim was transported to and treated at the Washington Adventist Hospital Center for serious but non-life threatening injuries.

On October 6, 2010, Osorio-Osorio, after a three-day trial, was found guilty in the Circuit Court of Montgomery County of Attempted Murder and First Degree Assault. Sentencing was held on December 9, 2010. Osorio-Osorio was sentenced to life in prison, all suspended except for 25 years, five years probation upon release, no contact with the victim and restitution to be paid back to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board in the amount of \$20,560.

As of November 30, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the Takoma Park station have responded to 726 fire-related incidents. The department handled or assisted with 2,901 rescue or ambulance-related incidents, for a total of 3,627 this year. Totals for 2009 were 697 and 2,670, respectively, for a total of 3,367, representing an increase of 260 incidents.



By JIM JARBOE

Winter Fire Safety Tips For The Home

The high cost of home heating fuels and utilities have caused many of us to search for alternate sources of home heating. The use of wood burning stoves is growing and space heaters are selling rapidly, or coming out of storage. Fireplaces are burning wood and synthetic logs.

All these methods of heating may be acceptable. They are however, a major contributing factor in residential fires. The following fire safety tips can help you maintain a fire safe home this winter.

Wood Stoves and Fireplaces

- Be sure the fireplace or stove is installed properly. Wood stoves should have adequate clearance (36") from combustible surfaces, and proper floor support and protection.
- Wood stoves should be of good quality, solid construction and design, and should be UL listed.
- Have the chimney inspected annually and cleaned if necessary, especially if it has not been used for some time.
- Do not use flammable liquids to start or accelerate any fire.
- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace opening, to prevent embers or sparks from jumping out, unwanted material from going in, and help prevent the possibility of burns to occupants.
- Don't use excessive amounts of paper to build roaring fires in fireplaces. It is possible to ignite creosote in the chimney by overbuilding the fire.
- Keep flammable materials away from your fireplace mantel. A spark from the fireplace could easily ignite these materials.
- Before you go to sleep, be sure your fireplace fire is out. Never close your damper with hot ashes in the fireplace. A closed damper will help the fire heat up again and will force toxic carbon monoxide into the house.

- If synthetic logs are used, follow the directions on the package. Never break a synthetic log apart to quicken the fire or use more than one log at a time. They often burn unevenly, releasing higher levels of carbon monoxide.
- Never discard hot ashes inside or near the home. Place them in a metal container outside and well away from the house.

Finally...

Be sure every level of your home has a working smoke alarm, and be sure to check and clean it on a monthly basis.

Plan and practice a home escape plan with your family.

If there is a fire hydrant near your home, you can assist the fire department by keeping the hydrant clear of snow so in the event it is needed, it can be located.

On behalf of the entire fire department, we want to wish all of you a Fire Safe New Year.

TPVFD welcomes new members

At the department's membership meeting Dec. 8, the following were voted into membership:

Marc Anastasi, Alexis Dickerson, Cesar Lemus and Christine Walsh. If you are interested in joining, please contact Mike Livingston at the fire station 240-773-8954. An experience of a lifetime is waiting for you.

TAKOMA PARK CALENDAR

January 2011

Do you have an item for the City calendar? Let us know if you have a non-profit event that would be of interest to most City of Takoma Park residents, and we'll consider it for inclusion in the calendar. Deadline for the February issue is Jan. 15. To submit calendar items, email tpnewseditor@takomagov.org.

GENERAL CITY EVENTS

Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Holiday

Jan. 17
Community Center and City offices closed
No yard waste pick-up

PUBLIC MEETINGS

City Council Meeting

Jan. 3, 7:30 p.m.
Auditorium, Takoma Park
Community Center
See takomaparkmd.gov for agenda

City Council Meeting

Jan. 10, 7:30 p.m.
Auditorium, Takoma Park
Community Center
See takomaparkmd.gov for agenda

Public Hearing on Use of the CR Zones in the Takoma/Langley Sector Plan

Jan. 10, 7:30 p.m.
Auditorium, Takoma Park
Community Center
301-891-7205, thenewwave.com

City Council Meeting and Ward 5 Night

Jan. 18, 7 p.m. Reception
7:30 p.m. Meeting
Auditorium, Takoma Park
Community Center
See takomaparkmd.gov for agenda

Media Center Open House for Professionals

Jan. 24, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Tour the new Media Center and renovated Auditorium, brainstorm future uses for the facilities. 301-891-7227, gregoryc@takomagov.org

City Council Meeting

Jan. 24, 7:30 p.m. meeting
7 p.m. reception
Auditorium, Takoma Park
Community Center
See takomaparkmd.gov for agenda

City Council Meeting

Jan. 31, 7:30
Auditorium, Takoma Park
Community Center
See takomaparkmd.gov for agenda

ARTS AND LITERATURE

Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library Reading Group

Jan. 6, 6-7:30 p.m.
Hydrangea Room, Takoma Park
Community Center
"The First Man," by Albert Camus, an unfinished work at the time of his death.

Art Exhibit by Sam Mercer and Traci Jones

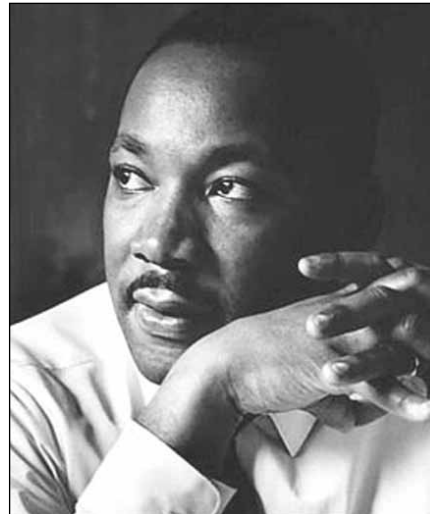
Jan. 7, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Gallery 3 and the Atrium Gallery
Takoma Park Community Center
Show runs from WHAT
Free
301-891-7224, SaraD@takomagov.org,
<http://facebook.com/TakomaParkMD>

"Soul Vibrations": Black Freedom Struggles through Sound, 1939 and 1972"

Jan. 13, 7:30 p.m.
Dr. Gayle Wald, Professor and Chair,
Department of English, George Washington
University
Auditorium, Takoma Park

Celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday

At 7 p.m. on Friday, January 14, residents will gather at Takoma Park Middle School to celebrate the life of civil rights hero, Martin Luther King, Jr. The event's theme, "We ARE the Dream.... living and believing," will be honored in song, dance and poetry. For more information, or to volunteer to help run the event, contact leiciam@takomagov.org.



Community Center
Free
301-891-7224, SaraD@takomagov.org,
<http://facebook.com/TakomaParkMD>

Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration - We ARE the Dream. . . Living and Believing

Jan. 14, 7 p.m.
Takoma Park Middle School
Multi-purpose Room
Singers, dancers, and poets join to celebrate the civil rights hero
Free

Poetry reading by poets Caroline Wilkins, Garrett Phelan and Matthew Salomon.

Jan. 20, 7:30 p.m.
Auditorium, Takoma Park
Community Center
Free
301-891-7224, SaraD@takomagov.org,
<http://facebook.com/TakomaParkMD>

Art for the People Exhibit

Ongoing through March
Mark's Kitchen, 7006 Carroll Ave.
Work from Community Vision Day Shelter for the Homeless

The Parkinson Sisters, a Next to the House concert

Jan. 9 7:30 p.m.
Auditorium, Takoma Park
Community Center
Admission Fee: \$15 advance/\$18 at the door
301-891-7224, SaraD@takomagov.org,
Tickets may be purchased online at <http://sunspotpro.com/>

A Celebration of the Life and Music of Buddy Holly

Jan. 29, 8 p.m.
Auditorium, Takoma Park
Community Center
J.P. McDermott with Special Guests
To Benefit Hungry for Music
Admission Fee: \$15
301-891-7224, SaraD@takomagov.org,
<http://facebook.com/TakomaParkMD>

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Open Gym

Jan/ 11. 19. 25. 8-9 p.m.
Piney Branch Elementary School
Ages 13-18

301-891-7283 Winter Basketball League Practices Begin

Jan. 3 - Ages 5-12
Schedules set according to coach schedules and gym availability through eight-week season
Sponsored by the Recreation Department
301-891-7290

First Winter Basketball League Game

Jan. 8 - Ages 5-12
Schedules set according to coach schedules and gym availability through eight-week season
Sponsored by the Recreation Department
301-891-7290

Fun Day for Half-day School Closing

Jan. 24, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Meet at the Takoma Park Community Center
Supervised museum tour in Washington, D.C. for school children ages 5-12.
Sponsored by the Recreation Department.
TP residents \$35, non-residents \$45
301-891-7100

SENIORS

Chat Cafe

Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Senior Room, Takoma Park Community Center
Coffee, tea and conversation for adults 55 and older. Drop-in. No registration is required. Open to adults age 55 and older.
Free

Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C.

Jan. 12, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
For adults 55 and older. Register by Jan. 7.
Meet at the Takoma Park Community Center. Bus pick-up at Franklin Apartments, Maplevue Apartments, and Victory Tower only.
Free

Old Country Buffet

Jan. 19, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Bingo and an American food buffet in Gaithersburg for adults 55 and older. Register at 301-891-7280 by Jan. 14.
Meet at the Takoma Park Community Center. Bus pick-up at Franklin Apartments, Maplevue Apartments, and Victory Tower only.
\$7.95 plus tax for your meal.



City TV and Recreation Launch New Media Center

Young people are gathering at a new spot in the Community Center, since the new Media Center became fully operational in December. The facility is stocked with eight 27-inch iMacs, projector and screen, microphones, headphones, music synthesizers, and DJ midis, all funded through county cable station grants.



Photo by Debra Haidunen

Rita Moreno guides a young musician as he uses new software to create music.

The Recreation Department is offering numerous classes on Apple software, such as Garage Band and Logic, programs that allow students to record and arrange their own music; and Final Cut Pro, a video editing program. Students are also working on producing professional segments of City TV's magazine, Takoma Park Snapshots, a series that highlights Takoma Park institutions and events like the Art Hop, and Washington Adventist University Family Fun Day.

"This is a place for the kids to bring out the future sound engineers they have inside," says Rita Moreno, music engineer instructor. "The lab is an excellent community resource, especially for the youth," agrees City TV Producer and Video Instructor John Pitt.

The Media Center is run by the Recreation Department with collaboration from City TV.

"We're proud of what we've been able to accomplish, and we look forward to residents being able to use the lab to the fullest" says Greg Clark, assistant director of the Recreation Department.

Looking Back, Looking Forward

Looking Back on 2010

As 2011 begins, we look back at the big events of 2010 for clues about what to expect in the new year. Along with those pictured, there was the budget crisis, heightened by County cuts (budget will continue to be a challenge this fiscal year), a downtick in crime (which decreased 8.25 percent overall since 2008), and City Council commitment to propose off-site beer and wine sales in Takoma Park to the state legislature (on the docket for the 2011 legislative session).



Courtesy of Capital City Cheesecakes

Business Shuffle

Among the biggest changes in the commercial district: Savory closed, to be replaced by Capital City Cheesecakes; the Drifting Nomad closed, but Mayorga Coffee opened. Takoma Ace Hardware opened, along with Takoma Bicycle, the Green Committer and the CD Game Exchange. Coming in 2011: Troh, a home furnishings and accessories/art store at 232 Carroll Street in D.C. is expected to open in January; ReRun vintage store will close; Pan Am supermarket takes over at Expo Emart, once the Safeway in Langley Park.



Photo by Laure Stepp

New Firehouse

After years of planning, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department finally got its new building – but retained the old stone, hauled up from Sligo Creek decades ago. In 2011, they'll be working to ensure the ladder truck returns to the station as well.



Photo by Jeremy Arias/Gazette

Big Snow

In February 2010, Takoma Park and the rest of the metropolitan area experienced "Snow-pocalypse," a record-breaking, 20 inches of snow. Public Works crews worked around the clock to clear the streets, and residents pooled their resources to deliver potluck meals for the snowplow drivers. Public Works is prepared again with six trucks

tuned up and ready to shovel; the Farmer's Almanac predicts colder than normal temperatures, but average wintry precipitation.



Photo by Laurie Stepp

Making Mosaics

The City celebrated two new mosaic projects: this one, in the Community Center (with Alice Sims, who helped organize the project through Art for the People), and another on Westmoreland Avenue across from the playground and gazebo.



Courtesy of Oreka Tx

Sound Investment

The newly renovated auditorium, with top of the line audio and visual equipment, celebrated its grand opening in

June, with a two-week run of free concerts. Performances continue in 2011, with the We Are Takoma monthly series and other performing arts events scheduled throughout the year (see calendar, page 11). Here, the inaugural performance of We Are Takoma featured guests Oreka Tx.



Courtesy Takoma Park Play Committee

Play Time

Last year, the Takoma Park Play Committee hosted play groups at parks throughout the City (shown here) as well as a Play Day, with games, performances and loads of outdoor activities in September. The play continues in 2011, with similar events plus a new Mid-Winter Play Day, February 12 from 2-4 p.m. in the Community Center.



Photo by Gregory Clark

Play Ball

A new half court behind the Community Center has become a popular hangout for basketball players of all ages. Open from dawn to dusk, it will continue to host the Y.E.S. league games for high school players.